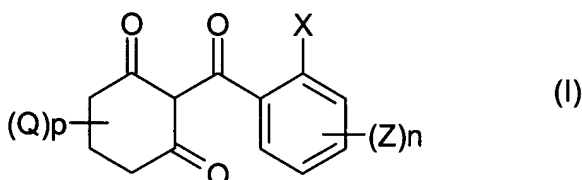


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): A herbicidal composition comprising:

- (i) a metal chelate of a 2-(substituted benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione of formula (I)



wherein X represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkoxy group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more groups $-OR^1$ or one or more halogen atoms; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^2$, $-S(O)_mR^1$, $-O(CH_2)_tOR^1$, $-COR^2$, $-NR^2R^3$, $-SO_2NR^2R^3$, $-CONR^2R^3$, $-CSNR^2R^3$ and $-OSO_2R^4$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom; or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^4 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms;

each Z independently represents halo, nitro, cyano, $S(O)_mR^5$, $OS(O)_mR^5$,

(C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_6) haloalkoxy, carboxy,

(C_1-C_6) alkylcarbonyloxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) alkylcarbonyl, amino, (C_1-C_6) alkylamino, (C_1-C_6) dialkylamino having independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, (C_1-C_6) alkylcarbonylamino,

(C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonylamino, (C_1-C_6) alkylaminocarbonylamino,

(C_1-C_6) dialkylaminocarbonylamino having independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, (C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonyloxy,

(C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyloxy, (C₁-C₆)dialkylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonyl, substituted phenylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyloxy, substituted phenylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonylamino, substituted phenylcarbonylamino, phenoxy or substituted phenoxy;

R⁵ represents cyano, -COR⁶, -CO₂R⁶ or -S(O)_mR⁷;

R⁶ represents hydrogen or straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms;

R⁷ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)haloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)cyanoalkyl,

(C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl optionally substituted with halogen, cyano or (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three of the same or different halogen, nitro, cyano, (C₁-C₄)haloalkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy or -S(O)_mR⁸;

R⁸ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

each Q independently represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or -CO₂R⁹ wherein R⁹ is

(C₁-C₄)alkyl;

m is zero, one or two;

n is zero or an integer from one to four;

r is one, two or three; and

p is zero or an integer from one to six; and

(ii) an organic phosphate, phosphonate or phosphinate adjuvant.

Claim 2 (Original): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein X is chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -S(O)_mR¹, or -OR¹.

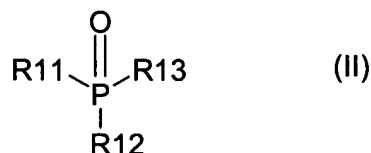
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein each Z is independently chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -OR¹, -OS(O)_mR⁵ or -S(O)_mR⁵.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein n is one or two.

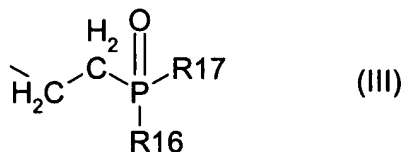
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein p is zero.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 2-(2'-nitro-4'methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonyloxy benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2'-chloro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 4,4-dimethyl-2-(4-methanesulphonyl-2-nitrobenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-methanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione and 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-ethanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A herbicidal composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the phosphate, phosphonate or phosphinate adjuvant is a compound of formula II



wherein R¹¹ is an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, t is from 0 to 50 and R¹⁵ is hydrogen or an alkyl group containing from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and R¹² and R¹³ are independently (i) an alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms; (ii) optionally substituted phenyl; (iii) an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or (iv) a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined; or (v) a group of formula (III)



wherein R¹⁶ is an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined and R¹⁷ is an alkyl group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, optionally substituted phenyl, an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined; and wherein t is from 0 to ten.

Claim 8. (Original): A herbicidal composition according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphate in which R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are all independently alkoxy groups.

Claim 9. (Original): A herbicidal composition according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphonate in which R^{11} and R^{12} are both independently alkoxy groups and R^{13} is an alkyl, alkenyl or optionally substituted phenyl group.

Claim 10. (Original): A herbicidal composition according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphinate in which R^{11} is an alkoxy group and R^{12} and R^{13} are both independently an alkyl, alkenyl or optionally substituted phenyl group.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A process for the control of weeds, said process comprising applying to the locus of the weeds a herbicidally effective amount of a composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): A method of improving the selectivity of a metal chelate of a 2-(substituted benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, when applied to unwanted vegetation in a crop of useful plants, said method comprising the applying of a herbicidally effective amount of a composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.